Mr. B. Kesavaiya.—This is the same as subject No. 91 against my name.

In some instances, the owners of sites have lived outside the town for more than 20 years and as the whereabouts of these persons were not known, it was neither possible to collect taxes nor go to the Civil Courts. Under such circumstances, the Municipality may be empowered to deal with such cases.

Dewan.—The sites will have to be resumed first.

Messrs. Syed Khaja Peeran and Rasul Khan.—This was discussed in previous years and it was ordered that such sites should not be sold by the Municipality but the Municipality should try its best to collect the taxes in any other way possible. If a *Jamabandi* is held once in two years or so, it would not be very difficult to find out the owners of such sites and to collect the outstanding taxes. If the present request to amend the Municipal Regulation is sanctioned, many poor people will be put to a lot of trouble. The well-to-do and influential people of the town will try and acquire all such sites and oust the poor altogether from such places. It is very undesirable to change the present system.

Mr. Ananthaiya.—Such an amendment of the Municipal Regulation seems to be very necessary not only in the interests of the Municipal income but also from the sanitary point of view. The owners of sites do not live in those towns and the growth of vegetation in those areas (Shimoga, for example) is a great nuisance. This is responsible for the insanitary condition of most of our mofussil towns, and entails cost to the Municipality in engaging a conservancy establishment.

Mr. Suryanarayana Chetty.—Most of the workers in the Municipality are honorary workers, who experience a lot of inconvenience to proceed against such defaulters in Civil Courts. Nobody takes the trouble of going through a suit and collecting evidence. Dues will have to be written off. I think it is desirable to amend the Regulation.

Dewan.—Sites are to be resumed before action can be taken against the defaulters. A Bill towards that end is in progress. This may be brought before the Conference, and it is noted for consideration.

SUBJECT NO. 43.

Repeal of the Press Regulation.

[1]Messrs. A. Ananthaiya, Shimoga Taluk; A. Shamanna, Shimoga Municipality; C. Subba Rao and P. Venkappaiya, Shimoga District Board; and Hosakoppa Krishna Rao, Koppa Taluk.

Mr. Hosakoppa Krishna Rao.—Many a time, the subject of the repeal of the Press Act has been brought up before this Assembly with the prayer for the press law being repealed. For the existence of an independent press, the repeal of the Act is very necessary. In the Address of the Dewan, an amendment of the hard provisions of the Act is indicated. The Act may be repealed.

Mr. N. Srinivasiengar.—Perhaps, there is not a village where the newspapers are not read. For some time past, the articles that are appearing in newspapers are not bringing the people of the State together but are creating dissensions. We have come to the days when one sect has begun to accuse the other. The feeling that now exists between Brahmin and non-Brahmin was unknown in villages. The articles that appear in newspapers are the cause of all the trouble. Hence, it is very undesirable to repeal the Press Act. I think the party feeling has reached such a pitch that by the repeal of the Press Act we may lose the little protection that we have. It is regrettable that Government have not taken action against the authors of such articles whose one business is to condemn some party or other instead of publishing articles which are useful to people and which unite them together. Controversial matters should not be dealt with in papers.

Mr. G. Paramasivaiya.—Government have generously not taken action under the Press Act so far. The existence of the Act has not brought any into trouble till now. Newspapers are published to educate people in the best way but it looks as if the sole object of one or two papers of our State is only to create dissensions and to make people look down upon Government and its officers and to treat the Government and its officers with contempt and to instigate the subordinates of Government not to work in the interests of Government. The one aim of the Government is to treat all people alike and bring about union among the subjects. With that object, an advice was given by the Dewan in his last speech, but a different meaning is given to it and the article which I wish to read before the Assembly will clearly show, that the Dewan's speech is construed as an apology for what he said at the last Assembly. (He read an article from the "Sampadabhyudaya" dated 17th October 1921). Can any one in this Assembly who has heard the speech say that the Dewan has apologised? None can say so, as it was no apology but an advice to us. But thousands, outside this house, are made to believe in a false statement like this through articles of the kind I just now read; and it is very regrettable that action has not been taken against such frivolous articles. People are credulous, and frequent articles against Government not based on facts, are misleading. I beg that the Press Act must not be repealed and that it must be vigorously enforced, particularly when unfounded articles against Government appear.

Mr. V. Shamiengar.—There is no such talk like Brahmin and non-Brahmin in villages. It is only in Bangalore and Mysore. People are calm and united as ever;

but only these papers that are clamouring so much about nothing instead of educating the masses in the way they should, are creating a difference which never existed before and which the people are not in favour. In my opinion, the papers which are responsible for the creation of the existing differences between Brahmin and Non-Brahmin should be entirely stopped and only the papers which are edited in English continued, as few understand them. Kanarese papers must be suppressed altogether.

Mr. Vema Reddi.—It is undesirable to stop the editing of Kanarese newspapers as suggested by the member. Generally people do not read books while they are eager to know through papers what goes on around them. The Press Law should be vigorously enforced on the authors of articles who are responsible for bringing dissensions among the subjects of His Highness and against those that publish false statements.

Mr K. Venkataswamaiya.—Papers cannot be suppressed now at this stage of civilisation. I thought that the subject would be withdrawn as the Dewan was good enough to say that the modification of the Act was under consideration. The committee appointed by the Government of India has recommended the repeal of the Press Act and it is regrettable that a difference of opinion should have a risen in this Assembly for the repeal of the Act. There are provisions in the Penal Code for dealing with such misbehaviour and authors of such articles. Hence I am of opinion that the Press Law may be repealed.

Mr. Hutchveeregowda.—The Press Law must not be repealed. It should be vigorously and unsparingly enforced, especially, on those who are the authors of articles which cause disaffection among the subjects of His Highness and which incite people to insubordination.

Mr. C. Vasudeva Rao.—We are living in days when democratic Governments are established all over the world. An independent Press is part of a democratic Government and it is really very surprising to see that some of our members should press for the retention of the Press Act and one other member for abolition of Kanarese newspapers. The Press is intended for educating people and not for creating dissensions. It is through Press that all the modern literature is brought to our knowledge. Mr. Lloyd George himself has kept a press. If articles appear which unjustifiably condemn Government or any other party, there is provision in the Penal Code to deal with such men. I am really sorry that an occasion was given for a talk like this.

Mr. D. S. Mallappa.—We need not mimic British India, till we get advanced. The tone of the Press here is different, leading to communal jealousies. Papers need not be suppressed; but if any bitterness has been created among the subjects of this State, it is due to some articles that have been appearing in Kanarese newspapers. Only articles of the kind are the cause of the present Moplah rebellion and men who are responsible for such articles must suitably be dealt with under the Press Law and it should not be repealed.

Mr. M. Subbaiya.—Some members seem to be under the impression that the controversy that has been going on in the papers is entirely due to the Miller Committee Report, Education Memorandum, and the granting of scholarships. Somehow, it is noticeable that one paper goes on accusing the other. I personally think there are a few persons outside the State who are responsible for this sort of propaganda in our State and I think it is the duty of Government to find out such men and book them.

It is immaterial whether the Press Law exists or not. If the articles are such as affect the character of any individual, there is provision for them to go to the Courts for vindicating their honour. Government has not taken action simply because, there are only 2 or 3 papers in the State. I appeal to the good sense of the editors to work amicably with one object of educating the people of our State in the right sense and forget all differences. When the educated people in the Cities read such articles, they know what value to attach to them; but it is very undesirable that the villagers should continuously be drummed in the ear about these differences of Brahmins and Non-Brahmins and the criticisms against Government, which will surely not create a harmony amongst the subjects of His Highness the Maharaja and which in the long run will not conduce to the good of the country as a whole.

Mr. M. Venkatakrishnaiya.—The object of each press in all countries is to point out the defects, both of Government and of the public with the object of correcting them. One of the Viceroys said that the Press Law in Mysore is more stringent than the British Law, but His Highness once said that it was to guard the interests of the British policy that the Press Law was brought into force in Mysore. As the British Government are repealing the Press Law, it is high time that it should be repealed here also. What I think right, others may not view the same in the same light. If one party thinks what he writes is right, the other party thinks what he writes is correct.

Of course, there must be difference of opinion. A Judicial Committee with a judge on it, may be appointed to investigate the merits of the articles that have appeared and the authors suitably punished, if they have gone out of bounds. Perhaps it may be remembered how Keir Hardie spoke in Parliament condemning the Emperor. We may also remember the tones of German and American papers when they speak of the republic presidents. The one object of the Press is to expose the defects of administration with a view to correction. If such is not the object, there is no reason why a press should exist at all. It is regrettable that a few members are not in favour of repealing the Act and others went so far as to suggest abolition of some Kanarese papers. If such is our attitude, a day may come when a few will bring forward proposals to abolish the Representative Assembly, and the Legislative Council. In my opinion, the Press Law should be repealed, as there is sufficient provision elsewhere for keeping the articles within bounds. Otherwise, our State will be one of the last of backward ones.

Mr. D. S. Hanumantha Rao.—I would suggest a reference to an Arbitration to enquire into the articles and bring about an amicable settlement.

Mr. S. R. Balakrishna Rao.—I support the repeal of the Press Act and hope my friends also will support sinking all their differences, as there is the Penal Code to deal with men who violate the rules of the Press. Press Act is meant for extraordinary occasions.

Mr. R. Gopalaswami Iyer.—There are two meanings that may be given to the word "Press". The one is "Public Rights Effectively Shown to the Sovereign" and the other is "Personal Revenge Easily Shown to the Sovereign." There are some irresponsible writers who go on writing what comes into their heads without any consideration. People sometimes do not read them with the same meaning which the writers wish to convey. The reading of an article depends upon the mind with which it is read. A Publicity Bureau may be established to have a check over these papers and to report to Government the names of those who are responsible for frivolous, unfounded and indecent articles in the papers and Government may take suitable action with reference to such persons. In case, such a Bureau is established, there is no reason for the existence of the Press Act. Wrong information can thus be easily corrected.

Mr. Karnick Krishnamurthi Rao.—The Vrittanta Patrika was established many years ago before any other paper in the State existed and it is a newspaper which is

very widely circulated. Perhaps, it is half a century since it was established. I have come across none who complains of it. It always acts most honourably. It knows what to edit and what not and never enters into controversial grounds. Such should be the attitude of all newspaper editors.

Messrs. Ananthaiya and Suryanarayana Rao supported the repeal of the Press Act.

(*Vide*.—Dewan's concluding remarks in Appendix G.)

PROTECTION.

(JUDICIAL.)

(Nos. 44 to 58.)

SUBJECT No. 44.

Second Grade Pleaders.

Messrs. G. Jayaram Setty, Magadi Municipality; N. Nagappaiya, Hole-Narsipur Taluk, and M. Narasimha Sastry, Arkalgud Taluk.

Mr. G. Jayaram Setty.—The concessions to allow persons who have passed the S. S. L. C. and Matriculation Examinations, to enrol themselves as Second Grade Pleaders extends for only one year more. The term may kindly be extended for another ten years at least. At present a lot of difficulty is felt for want of these men. Petty cases are not taken by the Advocates. In case such Advocates are to be engaged, the fee levied by them is enormous and is such that the poor are not in a position to pay.

Mr. Justice K. S. Chandrasekhara Aiyar.—There are many Second Grade Pleaders. The time already given is five years.

Mr. Karnick Krishnamurthi Rao.—I objected to abolition of Second Grade Pleaders some time ago. The want of Second Grade Pleaders is very keenly felt. Sometimes, these lawyers have to go a distance of 40 to 50 miles and consequently their charges are such as cannot be borne by poor raiyats. If the term cannot be extended, it may be ordered at the time of enrolment that, at least, 2 or 3 lawyers should remain in particular taluk headquarters. If this is not possible, it is very essential that the period must be extended, at least, by ten years.

Third Member of Council.—There are over a hundred Mysore students studying for Law. As the number increases, they are bound to settle in taluks.

Mr. Karnick Krishnamurthi Rao and others.—Arrangements should be made and facilities given to get legal help in taluk headquarters. Time must be extended by ten years more.

Dewan.—The subject will be noted for consideration and will again be referred to the Chief Court for their opinion.